GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1729
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
PROBLEM WITH SMALLER AIRCRAFT
K. ASUNGBA SANGTAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ATR-42, fifty seater planes introduced recently in Dimapur are incapable of carrying accompanied baggage of more than 15 kgs. resulting in lot of inconvenience to Businessmen and tourists both domestic and international;

(b) if so, whether the Government plan to press private airlines which use large aircraft into service in this sector; and

(c) if so, by when these are likely to become operational?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): In the case of ATR 42-320 aircraft, the maximum payload available is 4.3 tons. With a full complement of 48 passengers on board, and accounting for 3600 kgs. as passenger weight @ 75 kgs. per passenger, the balance payload available for carriage of baggage and freight is approximately 700 kgs. This works out to an average of 15 kgs. per passenger.

(b) and (c): No, Sir. All scheduled airline operators are free to operate on any sector in accordance with Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government and subject to traffic demand and commercial viability. However, Alliance Air is considering the feasibility of providing a twice weekly B-737 service between Kolkata and Dimapur subject to availability of capacity.